

# Watershed Ripples

Watershed ripples refer to the carbon footprint we leave behind, which impacts the future of our watershed. Every action has a reaction, or ripple effect, that affects our natural resources.

Spring 2018

## Mission Statement:

*We are dedicated to conserving our natural resources by educating, guiding and assisting the citizens of Stark County."*



Stark Soil and Water Conservation District  
2650 Richville Dr SE Ste 100  
Massillon, OH 44646  
Www.starkswcd.org

Becca O'Neill  
Education Specialist  
raoneill@starkcountyohio.gov  
330-451-7649

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## Soil and Water Conservation District – Education Programs

Stark Soil and Water values the importance of conservation education to Stark County residents of all ages. In order to enhance awareness to our citizens we provide programs, activities, events, and materials to communities. We have a variety of topics on which we may provide information, as well as accept requests for program topics. Teachers may contact Soil and Water to schedule free interactive programs for students based on the topics of soil, water, and natural resource conservation. All activities are aligned, by grade level, with Ohio’s New Learning Standards.

### Conservation Education Program Offerings:

- Free to any school within Stark County
- Available for students from Kindergarten to High School
- Aligned with the Ohio New Learning Standards
- Focus on the topics of soil, water, and the conservation of natural resources.
- Programs are designed for 30 participants, but can be adapted for other group sizes
- Program lengths vary from 30-60 minutes and can be scheduled to fit your needs
- Interactive, hands-on, and fun!

**Programs are scheduled on a first come first served basis and are limited to availability.**

### Resource Distribution:

Stark County Educators may request materials and/or lessons to use in their classroom if program scheduling is not available.

Items to borrow include: mason jars for determining soil composition, rocks and soil for earth science standards, test kits for soil testing, land use lesson, symbiosis easter egg hunt with , Envirothon resources, and more.

### Camps:

Camps may be offered annually for Stark County students. If you are interested in Soil and Water facilitating an activity or co-hosting a camp, a program can be scheduled to fit your needs.

### Programs for Organizations:

Community organizations may request informative presentations, grant opportunities, conservation events, or group activities on the topic of your choice. Organizations may include scout groups, 4-H clubs, library programs, garden clubs, school organizations, sorority/fraternities, women’s clubs, etc.

### Outreach Events:

Consider requesting Soil and Water to assist with your next event! Booths may be scheduled for markets and outreach events. Soil and Water will provide information on conservation practices and have sustainable children’s activities available.

## Workshops for Educators:

If you are looking for new hands-on science curriculum and materials or CEU's? Contact Stark Soil and Water to schedule a workshop.



Soils (Free, includes lessons)

- Calculate soil composition (sand, silt, clay), soil typing, test for pH, N, P, and K

Water Quality Monitoring (Free, includes lessons and resource materials)

- Determine water quality by performing habitat and macroinvertebrate assessments

Plant and Soil Science (Free, includes lessons)

- Using Nutrients for Life Curriculum to provide STEM activities to understand nutrients requirements for plants

Project WET (\$25, includes curriculum guides)

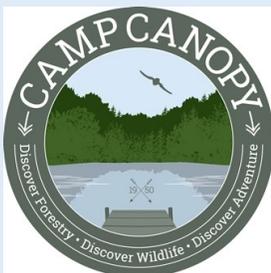
- Water education that promotes awareness of water and empowers community action to solve complex water issues
- Project WET, Healthy Water Healthy People,

Project WILD (Free, includes curriculum guides)

- Emphasizes awareness, appreciate, and understanding of wildlife and natural resources.
- Growing up WILD, Project WILD, Aquatic WILD, Projects and Activities for WILD School Sites

Project Learning Tree (\$25—\$50)

- Incorporating STEM skills with outdoor, environmental, and forestry lessons
- Environmental Education, Focus on Forests, Environmental Experiences, Focus on Risk



## Camp Canopy

(formerly Ohio Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Camp)

Dates: June 10—15, 2018

Cost: \$375

Camp Canopy is a week-long program that is held at Camp Muskingum in Carroll County. The camp concentrates on forest ecology, tree identification, and forestry products. It is primarily an academic program, but there are excellent facilities for swimming, softball, and other recreational activities.

Contact NEOFA or Stark Soil and Water for sponsorship applications. For more information visit [campcanopy.com](http://campcanopy.com)

**Event Date:**  
**April 26, 2018**

**Location:**  
Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds  
19201 E. Bagley Rd.  
Middleburg, Heights, OH  
44130

**Teams:**  
Students in grades 9-12  
5 person teams  
2 teams per district  
Need an adult advisor

**Registration Deadline:**  
**March 20, 2018**

## Envirothon—Area II

The Envirothon is designed to stimulate, reinforce and enhance interest in the environment and natural resources amount high school students. A competitive outdoor team event, Envirothon offers a unique and enjoyable learning experience.

The Envirothon tests students knowledge of soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatic ecology, and current environmental issues. This year's current environmental issue is "Western Rangelands".

The top 4 teams from each of the 5 Ohio area competitions progress to the Ohio Envirothon in June. The top-scoring team in the Ohio Envirothon is eligible to compete in the National Conservation Foundation—Envirothon, hosted by a different state or Canadian province every year. For more information go to [www.envirothon.org](http://www.envirothon.org) or download registration forms at [www.starkswcd.org](http://www.starkswcd.org).



## National Association of Conservation Districts Poster Contest

Any public, private, or homeschooled student from kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade has the chance to have their art displayed as part of a national conservation outreach initiative. Each year the poster's theme reflects the NACD's annual Stewardship theme to protect and enhance natural resources.

**Theme: "Watersheds – Our Water, Our Home."**

### Contest Rules:

- Any media may be used, including paint, crayon, colored pencil, charcoal, stickers, paper, or other materials.
- All posters must be created by an individual student, rather than a team of students.
- The 2018 theme "Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home" must be included on the front side of each poster.
- Each entry for the national contest must be submitted to NACD with an entry form to be eligible for judging. The form must be completed and signed by a parent or guardian.
- Although younger students will most likely receive help in planning from parents or teachers, NACD encourages each student to do their own work. (Note: Entries with student handwriting and coloring will score better than those designed, drawn, and colored by adult assistance.)

Winners may advance to state and national competitions to compete for scholarship opportunities.

### Scoring:

- Conservation message (50 %)
- Visual effectiveness (30 %)
  - Originality (10 %)
  - Universal appeal (10 %)

Posters are due to Stark Soil and Water by:  
**June 4, 2018**

## Certify your School as a Wildlife Habitat

Anyone can create a welcoming haven for local wildlife. Turning your schoolyard into a Certified Wildlife Habitat is fun, easy, and makes a big difference for neighborhood wildlife.

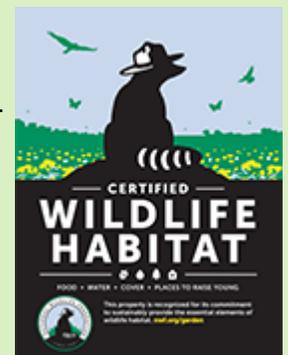
**The certification of School Wildlife Habitats are free of charge**

### Helping Wildlife:

Wildlife habitats can replenish resources for local wildlife and along migratory corridors. A local certification can inspire others to make a difference and address the declining habitats for bees, butterflies, birds, amphibians, and other wildlife nationwide.

### Certification Requirements:

To apply complete an online application at <https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/>  
Certify and confirm that your Wildlife Habitat includes food, water, cover, places to raise young, and sustainable practices.



# **Stark Soil and Water Conservation District**

## **Schedule of Events:**

- March 9-11, 2018 **Home and Garden Show**  
Stark County Fairgrounds — 305 Wertz Ave NW, Canton, OH 44708
- March 18, 2018 **Holy Cross Art and Design Symposium**  
1—4 pm Canton Museum of Art — 1001 Market Ave N, Canton, OH 44702
- March 20, 2018 **Homeowner's Series: Pond Management**  
6—8 pm USDA Service Center — 2650 Richville Dr. SE, Massillon, OH 44646
- March 21, 2018 **Regina Coeli Science and Literacy Night**  
6—7:30 pm Regina Coeli School — 700 Fernwood Blvd., Alliance, OH 44601
- April 18, 2018 **Homeowner's Series: Lawn Maintenance and Fertilizer Reduction**  
6—8 pm Lawrence Township Administrative Building — 5820 Manchester, North Lawrence, OH 44666
- April 22, 2018 **Kent State University—Stark Earth Day Celebration**  
1—4 pm Kent State University Stark — 6000 Frank Ave NW, North Canton, OH 44720
- April 24, 2018 **Homeowner's Series: Rain Barrels**  
6—8 pm Perry Township Administrative Building — 3111 Hilton St NW, Massillon, OH 44646
- April 25, 2018 **Homeowner's Series: Testing Lawn and Garden Soil** \*Test your own soil\*  
6—8 pm Plain Township Diamond Community Room — 2782 Diamond St. NE, Canton, OH 44721
- April 26, 2018 **Envirothon**  
Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds — 19201 E. Bagley Rd. Middleburg, Heights, OH 44130
- May 9, 2018 **Homeowner's Series: Green Cleaning** \*Make-And-Take\*  
9—11 am Lake Township Road Department — 1499 Midway, Uniontown, OH 44685
- May 10, 2018 **Homeowner's Series: Rain Barrels**  
6—8 pm North Canton Dogwood Shelter — 241 7th St. NE, North Canton, OH 44720
- May 23, 2018 **Homeowner's Series: Testing Lawn and Garden Soil** \*Test your own soil\*  
6—8 pm Canton Township Administrative Building — 4711 Central Ave SE, Canton, OH 44707
- August 1, 2018 **Homeowner's Series: Native Fall Pollinator Gardens**  
6—8 pm Louisville Constitution Center — 1022 Main St., Louisville, OH 44641



If you're interested in obtaining milkweed pods, or information on how to create a monarch habitat, visit

<http://www.ophi.info/home.html>

Milkweed in this program has been collected by Ohio residents, harvested by the state prison systems, and available free of charge.

## **Shaping the Future of Education in Ohio: Review and Respond to Ohio's Strategic Plan**

During the last six months, the State Board of Education and the Ohio Department of Education have engaged more than 150 partners from preK-12, higher education, business, philanthropy, community and the state legislature to craft a comprehensive strategic plan for education. This is the first prepared by the state in more than a decade.

Eleven regional stakeholder meetings will be held to review the plan and receive targeted feedback that will inform the final draft of the plan. These meetings are an opportunity to gather valuable input from various perspectives, including local educators, funders, parents, students and community members. The meeting will include an introduction from State Superintendent Paolo DeMaria, a brief overview of the draft plan and group discussions around specific provisions and options.

**Stark County: March 19, 2018 – 6-8 p.m.**